## DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Due to the length of the specification herein, Applicants will cite to the paragraph number of the published patent application (PG Pub) of the present application, i.e., US 2007/0117719, when discussing the application description, both in this section and in the Remarks section, *infra*, rather than to page and line of the specification as filed.

The specification has been amended by correcting the representation of Comparative Example 1 in Table 3 as --C1--.

Claim 1 has been amended to make explicit what was as least implicit, i.e., that the recited copper oxide is an active component of the shaped catalyst body, as supported in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0011]. A comma has also been added at line 5.

New Claims 12 and 13 have been added. Claim 12 is supported in the specification at paragraph [0014]. Claim 13 is supported in the specification at [0029].

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-13 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-7 and 12-13 are active; Claims 8-11 stand withdrawn from consideration.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1, 4-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by EP 1000658 (Zhao et al), is respectfully traversed. (Zhao et al has a US patent equivalent, i.e., US 6,689,713. Reference to Zhao et al in the text below will be to the paragraph number of the US patent).

As recited in Claim 1 herein, an embodiment of the present invention is a shaped catalyst body **having a macroscopically uniform structure** and comprising from 5 to 85% by weight of copper oxide as an active component and an oxidic support material, wherein a) **the shaped body has a pore volume of greater than 0.15 ml/g in the pore diameter range from 10 nm to 100 nm**, and b) **the oxidic support material in the shaped body is present both in finely disperse form** and also to a proportion by volume of from 1 to 95% by volume of the shaped body **in particulate form**. (Emphasis added).

Zhao et al discloses a copper-containing catalyst prepared by a process comprising a coprecipitation method and having a uniform crystallite distribution wherein the crystallites have a diameter of less than 1.0 nm account for 0-20%; those of 1.0-2.0 nm account for 70-99%; and those of more than 2.0 nm account for 0-20%, wherein the copper-containing catalyst comprises 30-70 wt.% copper oxide; 30-70 wt.% zinc oxide; and 0.30 wt.% alumina, and which copper-containing catalyst has, *inter alia*, a pore volume of 0.10-0.25 ml/g, and an average pore diameter of 15-20 nm (column 2, lines 49-67).

Zhao et al neither anticipates nor otherwise renders the present claims unpatentable. The catalyst of Zhao et al is not a **supported** catalyst, since the coprecipitation method therein involves coprecipitating solutions of salts of the precursor metals of the active components of the catalyst, i.e., copper, etc, with no precursor of an oxidic support. The significance of the presence of a support component is demonstrated by the comparative data in the specification herein, wherein Examples 1 and 2 are according to the present invention,

and Comparative Example 1, which contains no support component, is not, as described in the specification at paragraphs [0062]-[0079]. The difference in results between the examples and comparative examples, as shown in Tables 2 and 3, is striking.

Nor is a uniform crystallite distribution, as disclosed by Zhao et al, the same as a macroscopically uniform structure, as required by the present claims.

Nor, even if any of the oxides of Zhao et al's catalyst could be termed an oxidic support material, is such material present both in finely dispersed form and in particulate form.

Nor is a pore volume of 0.10-0.25 ml/g, and an average pore diameter of 15-20 nm, as disclosed by Zhao et al, necessarily overlapping with the presently-recited requirement of a pore volume of greater than 0.15 ml/g in the pore diameter range from 10 nm to 100 nm. The recited pore volume in Zhao et al embraces pore diameters of any diameter, since no minimum or maximum pore diameter is disclosed in Zhao et al.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The objection to Claim 1 is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the objection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of the subject matter of Claim 6. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently-active claims in this application are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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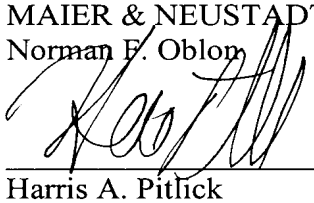

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